

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR:  
AREA: Middle East

SURVEY NO.: B-4272  
MAGI NO.: 0442725631

ADDRESS: 600-604 North Chester Street  
CURRENT NAME: Shirley's Cafe

BLOCK: 1636	LOT: 39-41	LOT SIZE: 12'x 86.5'
HEIGHT: 2		MATERIALS: Brick, aluminum siding
CONDITION: Good		OWNER: S.J. Hayes
		ADDRESS:
USE: Commercial		ACCESSIBLE: Yes
DESIGNATION:		LIBER/FOLIO: WA 4031-114

HISTORIC NAME: Dietz Saloon  
DATE: Ca. 1885  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:  
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

The three originally separate rowhouses which make up the present cafe consist of a corner building (600) with a cross-corner entrance and two other two-bay houses (602 and 604), all oriented towards the east. Each building's elevation has two bays on the upper story. The lower stories are united behind white aluminum siding and a continuous storefront cornice with scroll brackets. The only opening in the siding is for an air conditioning unit in 604. The corner entry undoubtedly once had a cast iron corner post which is now missing. The south elevation of 600 has a fine corbeled brick cornice and segmental-arched window and door openings. The windows in 600 are one over one. Its main cornice, stepped slightly higher than those of 602 and 604, has a plain soffit and simple molding defining the frieze. The cornices of 602 and 604 have a decorative perforation pattern in the soffit. The second story window openings are segmental-arched and contain two-over-two sash.

SIGNIFICANCE:

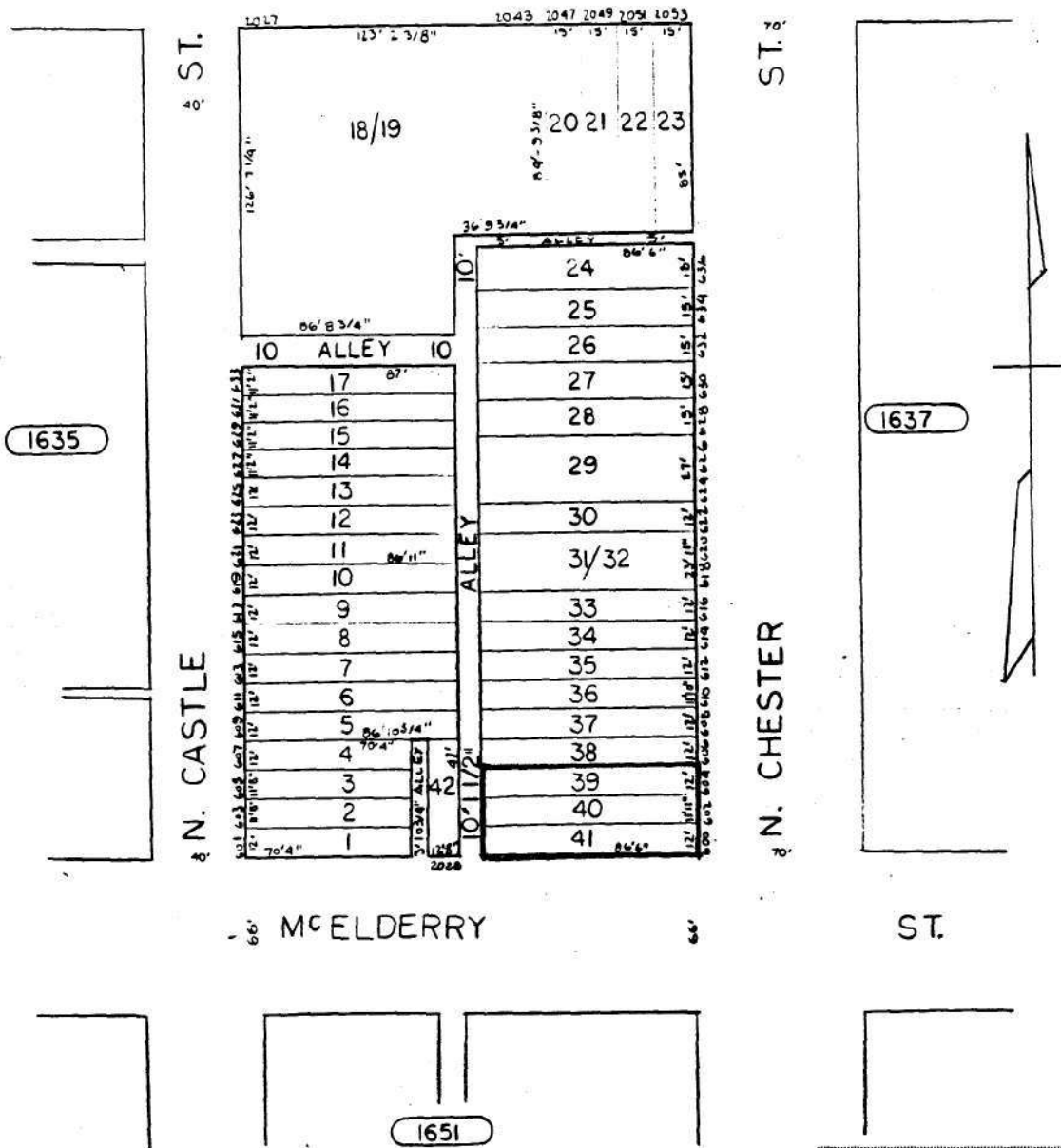
AREA: Architecture                      LEVEL: Local

Dietz's Saloon is a good example of neighborhood storefront architecture of the late nineteenth century in Baltimore. The diagonally placed corner entrance was a common feature of storefronts with two street elevations. City directories show that 600 N. Chester has been a saloon or tavern and restaurant since at least 1900, when Albert Dietz was the proprietor. During Prohibition, it was vacant at various times or dispensed soft drinks only until the 1930's when Richard W. Meise was one of the first in Baltimore to obtain a liquor license after the repeal of Prohibition. No. 602 was a barber shop by 1906, but was incorporated as part of the tavern at 600 by at least 1920. No. 604 was a shoe store around 1900 and later became Vasicek's dry goods and tailor shop until about 1917. By at least 1928, it too was part of the tavern.

SOURCES: Land records; City directories

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Janet L. Davis, CHAP, April 1989

B-4272



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





600-604 N. Chestet St. B-4272

Baltimore, Maryland

Photographer: Janet Davis

August 1988

Neg. loc.: Maryland SHPO

Southeast corner view from Chester-McElderry  
St. intersection